1	2
10. Nagda-Bhopal	238
11. Itarsi-Burhanpur	257
12. Bina-Katni-Bilaspur and Anuppur-Bishrampur/Chirimiri	777
13. Durga-Muranda	16
Total	2741

(b) and (c). At present, no electrification work is in progress in Madhya Pradesh. There is no proposal at present for electrification in Madhya Pradesh during near future.

Jobs to Pilots

1043. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the country having Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL), Senior Commercial Pilot Licence (SCPL) and Air Lines Transport Pilot Licence (ALTP);

(b) the number of persons out of them having foreign converted licence;

(c) the number of above licence-holders out of them who are still unemployed; and

(d) the steps being taken to provide them jobs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) Licence-wise, the number of persons are as follows :

(i) Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL)-3643

(ii) Senior Commercial Pilot Licence (SCPL)-1153

(iii) Airlines Transport Pilot Licence (ALTP)-2119

(b) Different foreign converted licences numberwise are as under :

(i) CPL - 450

(ii) SCPL - 1

(iii) ALTP - 16

(c) and (d). No records of employed/unemployed pilots are maintained. Moreover, issuing of licences is not linked with demand for employment of pilots.

Water Logged Areas

1044. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties experienced by the telephone consumers of water logged areas in the country particularly in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following difficulties are experienced :

(i) Restricted accessibility in water logged areas causes delay in restoration of faults.

(ii) More number of Telephone instruments going faulty due to moisture.

(c) Steps taken for improvement :

(i) Network upgradation by reliable media both for local and junction working.

(ii) Improving the quality of telephone instruments.

(iii) Replacement of Electro-Mechanical Exchanges by Electronic Exchanges.

(iv) Replacement of fault prone paper core cables by moisture proof jelly filled cables.

Extension of Bhopal-Rajkot Express upto Jabalpur

1045. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the Bhopal-Rajkot Express upto Jabalpur; and

(b) if so, the final decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tender System in Railways

1046. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for making the tender system of Railways more transparent to check bungling therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The existing Tendering System followed by the Indian Railways is based on the elaborate procedures laid down in the Indian Railway Stores Code and it ensures transparency

in the Tendering System. This system is of long standing, which has withstood the test of time and has ample checks to ensure the transparency in purchases.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Modern International Technology for Diamonds Exploration

1047. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY
DR. M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce modern international technology for exploiting large scale reserves of diamonds located in various States particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms fixed for awarding contracts of minerals; and

(d) whether the Government co-ordinate with Mineral Development Corporations of various States in examining the bids before awarding contract?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The National Mineral Policy 1993 envisages, inter-alia, induction of modern technology for High value and scarce minerals, through private participation. The grant of Prospecting Licence and Mining Lease is governed by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. The application for grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease is to be made to the State Government only. As Diamond is included in the 1st schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, prior approval of Central Government is required before grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Leases.

Visit of US Team of Labour Department

1048. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of U.S. Labour Department visited recently the manufacturing units engaged in the export of fabrics and leather goods to U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the main purpose of their visit; and

(c) reaction of the visiting team and its impact on country's exports?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Proposal to Appoint Tourism Development Corporations

1049. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the convenience of domestic and foreign tourists the Union Government propose to appoint Tourist Development Corporation of States as booking agents;

(b) if so, whether the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (R.T.D.C.) has been made as booking agents; and

(c) if not, whether these corporations are being given booking quota accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) No Sir. The Department of Tourism does not have any commercial activity.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Inter-State Superfast Express between Bangalore and Hubli

1050. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new inter-State Superfast Express has been introduced between Bangalore and Hubli from October 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that another train Shatabdi Express is proposed to be introduced between Bangalore and Hubli towards the end of the year 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) In lieu of the erstwhile 2025/2026 Bangalore-Hubli Shatabdi Express, an intercity Express train viz. 2725/2726 Express has been introduced between Bangalore and Hubli w.e.f. 1.10.96.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Command Training of Boeing 737

1051. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has stopped Command Training of Boeing 737;